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TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 KABUL 01778 01 OF 03 021047Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 FA-10 10-14 ADS-00 CINE-00 DODF-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7676

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Wm Kelley*

DATE *8/14/89*

() MESSAGE

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() Non-responsive info.

() 100 or VA exemptions

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 KABUL 1778

KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/3/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. B.) OR-M

TAGS: ASEC PEPR PINS PINT SHUM AF

SUBJECT: WEEKLY DIPLOMATIC AND SECURITY UPDATE

REF: (A) KABUL 1717, (B) KABUL 1728 (NOTAL)

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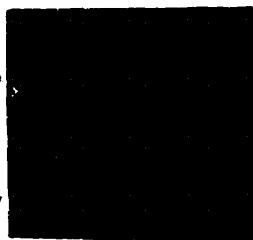
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PAGE 02 KABUL 01778 01 OF 03 021047Z

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

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2. SUMMARY: SPORADIC STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUED IN KABUL DURING THE PAST WEEK, AND TENSIONS ROSE NOTICEABLY TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK AS RUMORS SURFACED OF A GENERAL STRIKE ON JUNE 2. THERE ARE MORE REPORTS OF KHALQ-PARCHAM INFIGHTING, AND SEVERAL MIDDLE-LEVEL DRA OFFICIALS MAY HAVE BEEN WOUNDED IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS. SOVIET MILITARY TRAFFIC ON ROADS IN AND OUT OF KABUL HAS INCREASED, AS HAS AIR TRAFFIC, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT. HELICOPTERS HAVE BEGUN PATROLLING THE SKIES OVER KABUL DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS, AND REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE CONTINUED TO POUR IN, PARTICULARLY FROM AREAS NEAR KABUL. THE DRA HAS ORDERED UNIVERSITY GRADUATES AND STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT SERVED THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS TO REPORT FOR DUTY, AND ROUNDUPS OF MILITARY-AGE YOUTHS HAVE CONTINUED BUT MANY APPEAR TO BE EVADING THE DRAFT. MORE FOREIGNERS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY AND THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY PRESENTLY NUMBERS 48. END SUMMARY.

3. SPORADIC STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS BROKE OUT AGAIN MAY 25-27; NEW PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED SOME GRAMMAR SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WERE ARRESTED ON MAY 25 AND RELEASED A DAY OR SO LATER. OLDER STUDENTS BEGAN TO DRIFT BACK TO CAMPUSES ON MAY 31 AFTER THE WEEKEND, BUT MOST ARE NOT ATTENDING CLASSES. SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS REMAIN IN DETENTION. SOME TEACHERS APPEAR TO BE ENCOURAGING DAILY ON-CAMPUS DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH ARE GENERALLY IGNORED BY SECURITY FORCES. EDUCATION MINISTER ANAHITA RATEBZAD REPORTEDLY MET WITH A DELEGATION OF FEMALE STUDENTS ON MAY 26 AND AFTER HEARING THEIR COMPLAINTS, CHIDED THEM FOR NOT BEING WORTHY OF DRA SCHOOLS. SHE REPORTEDLY ACCUSED THEM OF BEING "STREET GIRLS" AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD NO LONGER BE WELCOME IN KABUL SCHOOLS. SUSPECTED STUDENT LEADERS OF DEMONSTRATIONS

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PAGE 03 KABUL 01778 01 OF 03 021047Z

AT GIRLS SCHOOLS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FROM THE SCHOOLS AND SOME ARE STILL IN PRISON.

4. NIGHT LETTERS AND THE LOCAL RUMOR MILL INDICATE THAT A CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE IN KABUL HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR JUNE 2. PERHAPS AS A CONSEQUENCE, HELICOPTER ACTIVITY OVER THE CITY HAS INCREASED DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS. (IN THE PAST, MOST SUCH CALLS HAVE FAILED TO PRODUCE STRIKES.) HOWEVER, INTERMITTENT GUNFIRE HAS BEEN HEARD ALMOST EVERY DAY AND NIGHT IN AND AROUND THE CITY DURING THE PAST WEEK.

5. WE HAVE TWO REPORTS WHICH WE CONSIDER RELIABLE THAT REVOLU-

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TIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMANDER OF THE POLICE AND GENDARMERIE ABOUS SAHAR AZHAR IS IN THE 400-BED MILITARY HOSPITAL NEAR THE EMBASSY. ONE OF THOSE REPORTS INDICATED THAT AZHAR, A PARCHAMIST, HAD BEEN BADLY WOUNDED IN AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT EARLIER IN THE WEEK. ACCORDING TO OTHER, LESS RELIABLE REPORTS, THE COMMANDER OF THE KABUL PROVINCIAL POLICE (PRESUMABLY ABOU JALIL) AND A KHALQI NAMED ASSADULLAH ZAIYAN WERE ADMITTED TO THE SAME HOSPITAL ON MAY 30 AND 31, RESPECTIVELY -- BOTH VICTIMS OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS BY RESISTANCE FIGHTERS. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SARBILAND LEFT FOR A FILM FESTIVAL IN TASHKENT ON MAY 21 AND HAS NOT YET RETURNED TO KABUL, AND THE RUMOR MILL IS, AS USUAL, READING SOME POLITICAL PROBLEM INTO HIS CONTINUED ABSENCE.

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PAGE 01 KABUL 01770 02 OF 03 021117Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 KABUL 1770

6. LARGER NUMBERS OF SOVIET MILITARY VEHICLES HAVE BEEN SEEN
IN KABUL IN RECENT DAYS, AND AT NIGHT WHAT SOUND LIKE LONG
CONVOYS RUMBLE IN THE DISTANCE. SEVERAL SMALL CONVOYS OF DUSTY,
DAMAGED AND BEDRAGGLED SOVIET ARMOR HAVE BEEN SEEN ENTERING
THE CITY. THE GRIME, THE FACT THAT THE ARMORED VEHICLES ARE
NOT ON TRANSPORTERS, AND THE DIRTY, EXHAUSTED FACES OF THE
CREWS INDICATE THAT THEY HAD JUST RETURNED FROM FIGHTING
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PAGE 02 KABUL 01770 02 OF 03 021117Z

SOME WERE NEAR THE CITY OR BEEN ON CONVOY DUTY. SOVIET
TRANSPORT AIR TRAFFIC HAS ALSO PICKED UP SINCE MAY 30, MUCH OF

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IT AT NIGHT. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT CARGO THEY ARE CARRYING. THE SOVIET MI-24 HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS HAVE LARGELY DISAPPEARED FROM KABUL AIRPORT, APPARENTLY NOW USING OTHER NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HELIPORTS NEARBY, BUT THEY AND MI-8 TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN SEEN IN THE AIR WITH INCREASING REGULARITY SINCE MAY 30. MOST OF THEM, AND MOST OF THE MI-21 JETS THAT STILL USE KABUL AIRPORT, APPEAR TO BE HEADING FOR BATTLE AREAS VERY NEAR KABUL SINCE THEY REAPPEAR IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME TO REARM AND REFUEL.

7. ONE MINOR POINT OF INTEREST IS THREE REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED IN THE PAST WEEK OF SOVIET TROOPS IN KABUL PURCHASING HASHISH FROM LOCAL STREET VENDORS. THE TROOPS ARE APPARENTLY GETTING THE MONEY FROM SALES OF PARTS OF THEIR WINTER UNIFORMS AND FUEL FROM THEIR VEHICLES. (VARIOUS COLLEAGUES HAVE COLLECTED ENOUGH SOVIET UNIFORM PARAPHERNALIA TO OUTFIT A PLATOON.) IN ANOTHER DRUG-RELATED ITEM, ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVER HAS COMMENTED THAT WITH THE EXPECTED DROP IN AFGHAN POPPY PRODUCTION THIS YEAR, THE OVERFLOW OF OPIUM FROM THE COUNTRY COULD EVEN DECREASE.

8. REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE CONTINUE TO POUR INTO KABUL, SOME FROM AREAS ALMOST WITHIN THE 20-KILOMETER RADIUS DIPLOMATS ARE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL. ONE VILLAGE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A HILL TO THE NORTH OF KABUL AIRPORT REPORTEDLY IS THE STRONGHOLD OF NUMEROUS RESISTANCE FIGHTERS. TRAVELERS REPORT THAT A LARGE WHITE BANNER SIGNIFYING REBEL TERRITORY HAS BEEN FLYING IN THE VILLAGE FOR OVER A WEEK AND THAT THE AFGHAN AND SOVIET FORCES HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO BRING IT DOWN.

9. REPORTS FILTERING IN FROM BAMIAN PROVINCE TO THE WEST OF
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PAGE 03

KABUL 01778 02 OF 03 021117Z

KABUL INDICATE THAT AFGHAN AND SOVIET FORCES HAVE BEEN TAKING A DRUBBING THERE. ONE OF OUR BETTER SOURCES TOLD US THAT BOTH GOVERNOR MESBAH AND PROVINCIAL MILITARY COMMANDER ATMAR WERE KILLED IN THE FIGHTING. IN ANOTHER REPORT FROM NEARBY WARDAK PROVINCE, EMPLOYEES OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WHO HAIL FROM THERE CLAIMED THAT SOVIET AIRCRAFT LAST WEEK DROPPED 51 LARGE BOMBS ("AS BIG AS BARRELS") AT ADBARA VILLAGE IN THE SCHNEEZ VALLEY BUT THAT ONLY 19 EXPLODED. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED ("ONLY BIG HOLES IN THE GROUND"), BUT PARENTS ARE SAID TO BE HAVING DIFFICULTY KEEPING CHILDREN AWAY FROM THE DUDS.

10. FURTHER TO THE SOUTH, AT JALDAK IN ZABOL PROVINCE (SEE
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PARA 6 IN REFTEL A) A TRAVELER ON A BUS WHO WAS CAPTURED BY RESISTANCE FIGHTERS IN A MAY 20 INCIDENT REPORTED IT THIS WAY: HIS BUS WAS ONE OF 12 BEING ESCORTED BY SOVIET APC'S AT THE FRONT AND REAR OF A CONVOY WHICH ALSO INCLUDED FOUR SOVIET FUEL TRUCKS. THE RESISTANCE FIGHTERS BLEW UP THE LEAD APC WITH A LAND MINE, AND THEN SWEEP DOWN FROM BOTH SIDES IN A FORCE NUMBERING OVER 200. THEY FIRED "POCKETS" AT THE FUEL TRUCKS AND TWO BLEW UP. AT THAT POINT, THE CREW OF THE REAR APC LEAPT OUT OF THEIR VEHICLE AND SURRENDERED. THE INSURGENTS HERDED THEM AND THE PASSENGERS FROM ALL 12 BUSES UP A STEEP HILL. AFTER ABOUT FIVE MILES, THEY CAME UPON A LARGE RESISTANCE CAMP ON TOP OF A HILL, COMPLETE WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS (UNSPECIFIED), ARTILLERY, APC'S AND COMMUNICATIONS VANS. THEY WERE KEPT THERE OVERNIGHT AND LECTURED ABOUT THE RIGHTOUSNESS OF THE RESISTANCE CAUSE, THE EVILS OF THE KARNAL REGIME AND THE FUTILITY OF THE SOVIET INVASION. THE NEXT MORNING, THE INSURGENTS, WHO ALL TOLD NUMBERED IN THE "THOUSANDS" HELD OFF TWO MI-24 ATTACKS WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AND LAUGHED AT HIGH-ALTITUDE JET BOMBING WHICH ENTIRELY MISSED THE RESISTANCE COMPLEX. THEN THEY RETURNED THE PASSENGERS TO THE BUSES AND ASKED THEM TO TELL EVERYONE THEY SAW THAT THE RESISTANCE WAS WINNING IN ZABOL.

11. IN ANOTHER INTERESTING STORY FROM PAKTIYA PROVINCE ALONG THE PAKISTAN BORDER, ONE SOURCE INFORMED US THAT KHALQI FLAGS
CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 04

KABUL 01778 02 OF 03 021117Z

ARE STILL FLYING OVER AFGHAN ARMY BASES THERE. APPARENTLY ON THE THEORY THAT KEEPING THE KHALQI'S HAPPY WILL INDUCE THEM TO FIGHT INSURGENTS, THE PARCHANISTS ARE NOT OBJECTING TO THE FLAGS AND THE SOVIETS ARE STAYING AWAY. THE KHALQIS, WHO OPPOSED THE SOVIET INVASION, SEEM TO HAVE REACHED A BROAD TRUCE WITH DISSIDENTS IN PAKTIYA BY NEGOTIATING WITH TRIBAL ELDERS IN THE TRADITIONAL AFGHAN WAY AND ALLOWING THOSE LEADERS TO CONTINUE TO CONTROL VILLAGE LIFE AS THEY WISH. OUR SOURCE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE KHALQIS COULD HAVE MADE A DEAL WITH THE TRIBESMEN TO BAND TOGETHER AND FIGHT THE KARNAL REGIME WHEN AN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF. (ALL ROADS IN PAKTIYA HAVE BEEN INTERDICTED AND REMAIN IMPASSABLE, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE.)

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PAGE 01 KABUL 01778 03 OF 03 0-11432
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 10-14 1'S-00 CIAE-00 70DE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7678

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 KABUL 1778

12. FURTHER NORTH, AT THE GUL BAHAR TEXTILE MILL SOME 160
KILOMETERS FROM KABUL NEAR THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE TO THE SALANG
PASS, RESISTANCE ELEMENTS HAVE THREATENED WORKERS
WITH THEIR

LIVES AND PROPERTY IF THEY GO TO WORK. CONSEQUENTLY, THE MILL
HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN SINCE MAY 21. WORKERS FURTHER NORTH AT THE
PUL-I-KOMRI CEMENT FACTORY HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY THREATENED AND

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PAGE 02 KABUL 01778 03 OF 03 021143Z

IT TOO CLOSED ON MAY 26. SENIOR DRA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SENT
TO PUL-I-KOMRI TO TRY TO INDUCE THE WORKERS TO RETURN TO THEIR

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JOB, SO FAR TO NO AVAL. (THE GUL BAHAR HILL IS NEAR THE
END OF THE PANJSHIR VALLEY AND BAGRAM AIR BASE WHERE THE
RESISTANCE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IN RECENT WEEKS.)

13. DRA EFFORTS TO REBUILD THE CRUMBLING AFGHAN ARMY HAVE
CONTINUED. THE LATEST "LOY KAS" DECREE ON MAY 28 WHICH
WARNED THE PUBLIC THAT "LAWS" ALLEGEDLY PUBLISHED IN THE
OFFICIAL GAZETTE ON MAY 5 WOULD BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. WHILE
SUCH "LAWS" HAVE NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED AS FAR AS WE CAN
TELL, AFGHAN SOURCES TELL US THAT THE EFFECT OF THE DECREE IS
TO ORDER ALL UNIVERSITY GRADUATES (AND SOME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS)
WHO HAVE NOT SERVED THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS TO REPORT FOR
DUTY. (UNDER PREVIOUS LAWS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF DRAFT
AGE WERE EXEMPTED FROM SERVICE, AS WERE CERTAIN OTHER GRADU-
ATES.) MEANWHILE, CONSCRIPTION PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN REFINED
SOMEWHAT IN THE FACE OF WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE IN KABUL.
INSTEAD OF INVADING CAMPUSES WITH PRESS GANGS, PARCHAM WORKERS
HAVE BEEN SCOURING LISTS OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AND THEN
TURNING THE LISTS OVER TO POLICE WHO ARREST DRAFTEES AS THE
OPPORTUNITY ARISES ON THE STREET OR, LESS FREQUENTLY, AT HOME.
NONETHELESS, AS EVINCED BY A SUDDEN SPURT IN NON-IMMIGRANT
VISA APPLICATIONS FROM YOUNG MEN AND STORIES OF BOYS HEADING
COVERTLY FOR PAKISTAN, MANY YOUTHS ARE FINDING WAYS TO EVADE
THE CONSCRIPTION EFFORT. OTHERS HAVE TOLD PARENTS THAT IF
THEY ARE DRAFTED, THEY WILL DESERT AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY.

14. UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS CONTINUED TO DEPART
AFGHANISTAN. UN ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOWN TO ABOUT 70 PERSONNEL,
ACCORDING TO MOST COUNTS, FROM A HIGH OF OVER 160. A FEW
MORE AMERICANS ALSO LEFT, BRINGING OUR CURRENT TOTAL DOWN TO
48. AT LEAST TWO OTHERS WOULD HAVE LEFT IF A PAKISTANI

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PAGE 03 KABUL 01778 03 OF 03 021143Z

COMMERCIAL FLIGHT HAD NOT BEEN TURNED BACK BY BAD WEATHER ON
JUNE 1. MILLS

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